the prescribed norm. There was also no coordination between wages paid by different departments.

9. During the period under study roughly 50 percent of the funds were utilised out of the available provision.

Wheat lying in the open in Haryana

2537. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that massive wheat stocks worth Rs. 200 crores are lying in the open in Haryana;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to save the stocks from rains and other vagaries of nature; and

(c) the reasons for not moving out the surplus stocks to other wheat consuming States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir. The Food Corporation of India has stored only 36837 MT of its wheat valued at about Rs 56 lakhs in cover and plinth (CAP) in Haryana as on 31-10-85 for want of covered storage capacity.

(b) The entire stocks stored in CAP by the Food Corporation of India in Haryana are well covered with polythene covers and the following further steps are taken to avoid damage to these stocks:

(i) Stacks are built in dome shape to avoil stagnation of water on the top.

(ii) Proper dunnage is provided under the stacks stored in CAP.

(iii) On sunny days, the stocks are properly aerated.

(iv) Stocks, stored in CAP, are periodcally inspected by technical staff posted at each deport and regular treatment is given to the stocks for proper preservation.

(c) Wheat stocks are being moved out of Haryana to other parts of the counrty speedily keeping in view the over all requirements, the constraints of movement an availability of storage space.

Modernisation of Rice Mills

2538. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of conventional rice industries set up in the country so far;

(b) whether Government have taken steps to modernise such rice mills;

(c) if so, what is the number of such conventional rice mills in Orissa which have been modernised; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) As per reports received by the Central Government, there were 90,335 conventional rice mills in the country as on 1-1-1985.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) 164, out of which 139 are huller-cum-shellers and 25 are sheller type of rice mills.

Change in the Look of Thar Desert in Rajasthan

2539. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any long term plan has been formulated by Government to change the look of the Thar desert in Rajasthan;

(b) what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the progress made so far in making the desert bloom and also develop the left bank area of the Indira Gandhi Canal passing through the Thar desert by planting trees and developing pastures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) The Desert Development Programme started in 1977-78 covers hot deserts in the States of Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan and the cold desert areas of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. The coverage includes 11 districts of Rajasthan in the